

**In the Claims:**

1. (currently amended) An organic electroluminescent device, comprising:

a substrate;

electrodes including a first electrode formed on the substrate, and a second electrode disposed to be spaced from the first electrode;

a function layer formed between the electrodes, said function layer comprising a carrier injection layer, a carrier transport layer and a luminous layer; and

a buffer layer adjacent to said ~~included in the~~ second electrode and disposed between said second electrode and a protective film layer ~~to be spaced from the function layer~~, said buffer layer having a density lower than the density of said luminous layer and said second electrode.

2. (original) The organic electroluminescent device according to claim 1, wherein the buffer layer is formed in a distance of 20 nm or less from an upper end surface of the function layer.

3. (original) The organic electroluminescent device according to claim 1, wherein the buffer layer contains an oxide.

4. (original) The organic electroluminescent device according to claim 1, wherein the buffer layer contains aluminum oxide.

5. (currently amended) The organic electroluminescent device according to claim 1, further comprising:

a thin layer contiguous with the function layer and containing any of an alkaline metal element and an alkaline earth metal element, said thin layer having a thickness of approximately 0.5nm.

6. (canceled) A method for manufacturing an organic electroluminescent device, the method comprising the steps of:

forming a first electrode on a substrate;

forming, on the first electrode, a function layer , said function layer comprising a carrier injection layer, a carrier transport layer and a luminous layer;

forming a second electrode above the luminous layer;  
and

forming a buffer layer in a distance of a predetermined value or less from an upper end surface of the function layer, said buffer layer having a density lower than the density of said luminous layer and said second electrode.

7. (canceled) The method for manufacturing an organic electroluminescent device according to claim 6, wherein the buffer layer contains an oxide, and the step of forming a buffer layer includes any of a step of oxidizing the second electrode and a step of depositing the oxide thereon.

8. (canceled) The method for manufacturing an organic electroluminescent device according to claim 6, wherein the buffer layer contains aluminum oxide.

9. (canceled) The method for manufacturing an organic electroluminescent device according to claim 6, further comprising the step of: depositing a layer containing any of an alkaline metal element and an alkaline earth metal element contiguous with the function layer.

10. (currently amended) An organic electroluminescent display apparatus including a plurality of organic electroluminescent devices formed on a substrate, wherein the organic electroluminescent device includes:

electrodes including a first electrode adjacent to the substrate and a second electrode disposed to be spaced from the first electrode, said second electrode comprised of an upper electrode layer and a lower electrode layer;

a function layer formed between the electrodes, said function layer comprising a carrier injection layer, a carrier transport layer and a luminous layer; and

a buffer layer included within the second electrode and disposed between said upper electrode layer and said lower electrode ~~to be spaced from the function layer~~, said buffer layer having a density lower than the density of said luminous layer and said second electrode.

11. (original) The organic electroluminescent display apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the buffer layer is formed in a distance of 20 nm or less from an upper end surface of the function layer.

12. (original) The organic electroluminescent display apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the buffer layer contains an oxide.

13. (original) The organic electroluminescent display apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the buffer layer contains aluminum oxide.

14. (currently amended) The organic electroluminescent display apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising:

a thin layer contiguous with the function layer and containing any of an alkaline metal element and an alkaline earth metal element, said thin layer having a thickness of approximately 0.5nm.